

matted as usual, the students sitting on the floor. On the wall was the picture of the Empress who, 1,200 years ago, nursed the lepers.

The Central Midwives' Board.

A Special Meeting of the Central Midwives' Board was held on Tuesday, July 19th, at Caxton House, when the charges against sixteen midwives were heard. There was a full Board, Sir Francis Champneys presiding.

The following is the result of the hearing:—

STRUCK OFF THE ROLL.

Lottie Bloomer (1497), Walsall, charged with failing to obtain medical assistance for patient suffering from severe rigor and abdominal pain, and also with attending as monthly nurse to another woman two days afterwards, being aware that the previous patient was suffering from puerperal fever, without satisfactorily disinfecting herself. The second patient died from infection.

Ann Briggs (8602), West Riding, charged with failing to obtain medical assistance for ruptured perinæum, and when patient's temperature was subsequently raised. The midwife said she should never believe that a small wound could cause a woman's death. The Coroner at inquest said she was a dear old woman, but quite incompetent.

Ellen Briggs (18813), charged with neglecting to obtain medical assistance for inflamed eyes.

Sarah Collings (6536), Cornwall, charged with neglecting to obtain medical assistance for serious rupture of perinæum and post-partum hæmorrhage. Patient, who was only sixteen, died.

Mary Denyer (11625), West Sussex, charged with negligence on several counts. The doctor's evidence showed culpable neglect of the cleanliness of the patient.

Mary Jane Evans (18436), Birmingham, charged with neglect of two patients, one of whom died of puerperal fever. Midwife wished to resign.

Sarah Hook (17184), Kent, uncleanly and neglectful.

Sarah Jarvis (20549), Kent. Dirty and neglectful. Employed a neighbour to wash and swab patient, who subsequently died in infirmary of puerperal fever.

Susannah Longney (17041), Gloucestershire. Charged with drunkenness and neglect.

Mary Stavely (16283), East Riding. Medical officer reported that after repeated warnings she had neglected to provide herself with a bag, etc., or otherwise keep the rules of the Board. There seemed to be no positive evidence that she was practising as a midwife.

Jane Taylor (12733). Neglecting to summon medical assistance for symptoms of puerperal fever, and for attending another case without having satisfactorily disinfected herself.

Isabella Tinker (506), Kent. Neglected to obtain medical assistance in a case of delayed labour with abnormal presentation, until the following day but one. Patient died after being delivered of a still-born child.

Rachel Yates (4353), Lancashire. Neglect to procure medical assistance, first in excessive

hæmorrhage, second for offensive lochia and high temperature. Patient died.

SEVERELY CENSURED.

Margaret Aldred (3201), Lancashire. Charged with unnecessarily making five internal examinations, neglect to obtain medical assistance for symptoms of puerperal fever.

Louisa Thomas (12733), Weymouth. Neglect to report inflammation of infants' eyes.

CAUTIONED.

Christina Shaw (5741). Neglect to obtain medical assistance for dangerous feebleness of infant.

Mary Warburton (6564), Cheshire. Charged with attempting to remove placenta by traction, and not obtaining medical assistance for severe hæmorrhage. Patient died.

Mary Ann Byfield (17159), Co. of Southampton. Charged with drunkenness and neglect. The midwife attended in person.

Instruction of School Children in the Care and Feeding of Infants.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon Dr. Addison introduced a Bill providing that all children attending public elementary schools shall, each week during school term, be provided with simple instruction in hygiene and the care of health, while each girl of the age of 12 years or more shall be adequately instructed in the care and feeding of infants. Every year in this country about 120,000 children die before completing 12 months of existence as the result of improper feeding, while large numbers suffer from inadequate attention and maternal ignorance. "I was talking with Dr. Addison in the lobby," says a *Daily News* correspondent, regarding the measure. "The death rate," he said, "is very much increased in neighbourhoods where the mothers have to go out to work and can only nurse their offspring morning and evening. The infants, between these periods, are looked after by older children of the family or girls hired for the purpose. Nearly one-third of the infant death rate is due to various complaints which arise from improper feeding."

"We have," he continued, "no opportunities for teaching mothers of the present day, although good work is being done in some places by voluntary agencies. I consider it very necessary, in order that the next generation of mothers should understand how to feed their children properly, that instruction should be given to girls at an age when they will not be possessed by various prejudices. We find it very difficult to persuade many women of thirty years of age or more to give up feeding their children on sop and other deleterious substances. Milk is the only proper food for an infant, and I am persuaded if we can get girls to believe this, and to remember even this only, we shall reduce the infant death rate in the next generation by 25 per cent."

The Queen has become patron of the City of London Lying-in Hospital.

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